

THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE. By Sir Stanley Davidson and the Staff of the Department of Medicine, University of Edinburgh, and Associated Clinical Units. Fifth Edition. (Pp. xl + 1112; figs. 73. 35s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1960.

THIS, the fifth edition in eight years of this comprehensive textbook, is adequate proof of its world-wide appeal to students and practitioners alike. The editor and contributors are to be congratulated on their industry in pouring so much basic science and sound practical medicine into a little over 1,000 pages of text without recourse to small print. The frequent revisions have assured that the book is fully up to date, a number of useful tables and illustrations are included, and the appendix contains a series of diets with useful explanatory notes. Treatment is covered in sufficient detail and the dosage of drugs recommended is given in both the apothecary and metric systems.

One can fully recommend this keenly priced book as a companion in study to the student who, in the crowded curriculum, requires a concise, factual and essentially practical textbook of medicine.

M. W. J. B.

AIDS TO BIOCHEMISTRY. By S. P. Datta, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., and J. H. Ottaway, B.Sc., Ph.D., A.R.I.C. Fifth Edition. (Pp. 264; tables 29; figs. 41. 15s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1960.

To compress this subject within such narrow confines, to preserve any balances and yet to present information useful to the serious student is virtually impossible. Little useful can be said about hormones in twelve pages. The medical student would do well to read a larger volume. If he uses this book for revision he may find the emphasis on some chemical reactions disproportionate to that on the more functional aspects of biochemistry.

A FINAL STUDY IN THE NATURE OF DISEASE. By J. E. R. McDonagh, F.R.C.S. (Pp. xx + 376. 30s.) London: Heinemann Medical Books, 1959.

THE author has long been known for his unorthodox views, which he has expressed in many volumes, but never in a terminology which would assist the reader to an understanding of their tenuous if unorthodox content. This book is the last in a series on the nature of disease. It is a strange mixture of facile generalisations and ranges from sub-atomic particles to human disease. Few readers will persist for more than a few pages with this book.

J. E. M.

RADIOLOGY AS A DIAGNOSTIC AID IN CLINICAL SURGERY. By Howard Middlemiss, M.D., F.E.R., D.M.R.D. (Pp. viii + 151; figs. 86. 30s.) London: Heinemann Medical Books, 1960.

THIS is a book on radiology for the surgeon as opposed to being a textbook or manual for the radiologist. A wide field is covered from emergency work to vascular investigation, and the nine chapters can easily be read in two evenings. The author repeatedly stresses the importance of consultation between radiologist and surgeon, and also the importance of the radiologist being given full clinical details concerning the problem in question. All the chapters provide a fund of most helpful practical comment and discussion. The illustrations are particularly good, especially in the chapter on "The Mouth, Nose and Neck."

Not all will agree with the author about the place for barium meal examination in the diagnosis of congenital hypertrophic pyloric stenosis. The small intestine has been the subject of much recent investigation and yet the radiological diagnosis of Crohn's disease is the only one discussed in some detail. The chapter on "Bone" is a very detailed survey of this field.

The book is clearly and concisely written and should be read by all surgeons.

D. M. B.